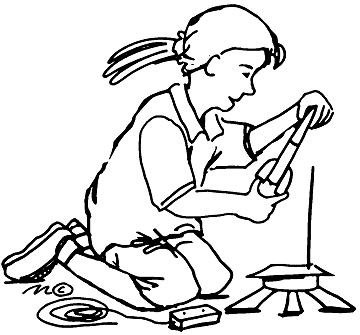
Gracie’s Scientific Principles

Gracie Mendez was always inventing odd little machines. There was the static electricity meter that sometimes gave off shocks of its own. There was the remote- control floor sweeper that was likely to dart out at people from corners of the room. “I’m still perfecting the technology,” Gracie would say as she apologized.

Gracie’s friends didn’t mind because she was a loyal friend and fun to hang out with. She was patient about explaining science homework, too. “The principles of science are like the multiplication tables,” she would say. “Learn them, and you can apply them anywhere.”

One day her pal Alicia came over, looking a bit strained. “I have to go back and help hunt for something,” she said.

“What’s lost?” asked Gracie.

“Our cat Abner made off with my brother’s miniature cast-iron car. Seth saved up for months to buy that car. We’ve looked everywhere for it,” said Alicia.

Gracie thought for a moment. Then she said, “Maybe I can help.” She went to her room and returned with a full backpack. A rod with a handle jutted out of the backpack. “Let’s go,” she said.

Alicia looked at her friend doubtfully, wondering what peculiar invention would be let loose on her family. But she shrugged and said, “Might as well,” and led the way to her house across the street.

When the girls arrived, Alicia’s mother was down on her hands and knees looking under the sofa, while Seth was taking books out of a tall shelf so he could move the shelf. Abner was snoozing at the top of another high bookshelf.

Gracie unloaded her backpack. First to come out was the remote-control floor sweeper — a flat disk with skateboard wheels on each side. Gracie removed the broom bristle attachment at the bottom and used duct tape to attach a good-sized flat magnet in its place. She set the sweeper on the floor and used the remote to send it scuttling around the room. She handed the remote to Alicia and said, “You know how to steer this. Keep it going.” Gracie took out the long-handled rod. At the bottom was a hinged clamp with a suction cup at each end. Gracie attached a smaller, lighter magnet securely to one of the clamp’s prongs.

“This is a reacher like the ones storekeepers use to get things off high shelves,” she said. She held the reacher up so it could probe the top of each bookshelf.

Abner leaped down onto the couch with a thud as the reacher neared him.

Meanwhile, Alicia continued sending the sweeper disk around the room. It stopped deep in the coat closet.

Gracie dove into the closet. She came out holding the sweeper. Attached to its magnet was the missing car. With a whoop, Seth grabbed the tiny iron car from Gracie. “You’re the best,” he exclaimed.

“It just goes to show you,” said Gracie. “A scientific principle can always be counted on if you know how to apply it.”

1. Gracie attached a magnet to each of the tools she used in the search because the magnet
2. can find items in a closet.
3. is attracted to the iron car.
4. helps to hold the car together.
5. scares the cat away during the search.
6. Alicia looks doubtfully at Gracie because
7. Gracie had never seen the toy car before.
8. Gracie’s inventions often did not work correctly.
9. Alicia knew that her cat was afraid of Gracie’s machines.
10. Alicia’s mother did not want Gracie to use an invention in her house.
11. When his car is found, Seth feels
12. excited to have his car back.
13. upset that Abner had lost his car.
14. relieved that his car was not broken.
15. jealous that Gracie had found the car before he could.
16. Abner jumped off of the shelf during the search because the rod
17. gave off electrical shocks.
18. woke him up unexpectedly.
19. made a thud as it touched the bookshelf.
20. poked him as it neared the top of the shelf.
21. Gracie’s friends are not mad when her inventions do not work because she
22. never hurts anyone.
23. helps them with their science homework.
24. gives the inventions to her friends as gifts.
25. is a good friend who enjoys helping others.
26. Read the sentence from the passage.

**Alicia looked at her friend doubtfully, wondering what peculiar invention would be let loose on her family.**

What does the word *peculiar* mean in the sentence above?

1. dangerous
2. flawed
3. important
4. strange
5. Which of the following BEST explains what the passage is about?
6. Gracie feels bad about scaring a cat.
7. Gracie builds a machine that does not work properly.
8. Gracie uses science to help her friend solve a problem.
9. Gracie has friends that appreciate her knowledge of science.
10. With which statement would the author MOST LIKELY agree?
11. Alicia should study more science.
12. Abner should stay off of the shelves.
13. Seth should take better care of his favorite toys.
14. Gracie should continue to create her inventions.
15. Which sentence from the passage best explains the illustration?
16. She went to her room and returned with a full backpack.
17. Gracie Mendez was always inventing odd little machines.
18. She held the reacher up so it could probe the top of each bookshelf.
19. Meanwhile, Alicia continued sending the sweeper disk around the room.
20. Which word BEST describes Gracie?
21. creative
22. intelligent
23. honest
24. trustworthy

Answer Key:

1. Correct Answer is B, DOK 3
2. Correct Answer is B, DOK 3
3. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2
4. Correct Answer is B, DOK 2
5. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
6. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
7. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2
8. Correct Answer is D, DOK 3
9. Correct Answer is B, DOK 2
10. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2